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FREE INDIA

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NGO Stir: People To Judge

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

IN the name of the people many hasty decisions are taken by politicians once they are installed in power and, more often than not, it turns out that the measures prove to be purely to the advantage of those who want to continue to be in power at all costs.

Now, for the first time, a bold step is being initiated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran to guage public opinion on a major issue like the NGO agitation. Such a step must be readily appreciated because it is the people who have voted the present Government to power and the common man and woman is being afforded an opportunity to give their verdict on such a burning issue.

The question may arise; who are the people? Are not the NGOs also people? Yes, nobody disputes their claim to be part of the people. Still, there is the vital difference between an interested party who are to involved in their demands failing to see reason and those others outside who could judge issues impartially. It is in this light that a matter can be resolved by presenting a popular opinion which would be for the benefit of all concerned.

Even Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan holds the view that the electorate have the right of recall if they find that their representatives have gone back on their words.

AWKWARD POSITION

Seasoned politicians like Mr. Karunanidhi are greatly worried that setting up a precedent such as the one being suggested by MGR would make the position of power-hungry politicians very awkward. He has taken exception to Mr. M. G. Ramachandran's open pronouncement at a public meeting recently on the steps he proposes to take to end the Government servant's allegedly illegal call for strike in all essential Government services like hospitals, student hostels and Government presses.

It cannot be denied that outside pressure is being brought into play by interested parties to intensify the NGO tangle thereby causing embarrassment to the Government itself.

OUTSIDE PRESSURE

Such a move has to be nipped in the bud and the Government has acted rightly by issuing a stern warning to its faltering employees who are holding the public to ransom.

The measures to be taken include the suspension of striking Government servants, mobilisation of Home Guards, requesting retired Government servants to volunteer for duty and recruitment of temporary staff from the open market.

Two of the NGO demands, namely, change in office and

(Contd. on page 8)

'Disproportionate Coverage' of World News

THE world's five biggest news agencies blanketed the globe with their news and often their interpretation of basic events, the International Press Institute's 27th general assembly was told at Canberra on Tuesday.

Mr. Sean Macbride, Chairman of the UNESCO Commission for the Study of Communications Problems and President of the International Peace Bureau, was delivering the assembly's key note address.

He said many people in many countries felt strongly that the emphasis on the free flow of information—without balance — inevitably put the developed world in a privileged position.

"It is a fact that there is an enormous gap in information facilities and resources", he told the 300 delegates.

He said there were around 110 national news agencies with the five biggest blanketing the whole world with their news.

"The genuine voice and image of the major part of humanity is never really heard.

"It is a fact that foreign correspondents are disproportionately and insufficiently covering various parts of the globe."

Mr. Macbride did not name the five biggest agencies in the address, but told reporters later they were Reuters, Associated Press, United Press International, Agence France Presse and Tass.

Mr. Macbride said correspondents for the big news agencies were distributed in the following way: 34 per cent in North America, 28 per cent in Europe, 11 per cent in Asia and Oceania, 11 percent in Latin America, 6 per cent in West Asia and 4 per cent in Africa.

"Much similar data could be cited, which illustrate not only material and quantitative differences but their implications, on culture, values, politics and modes of thought", he said.

"Many people in many countries assert that their independence, identity and integrity is endangered.

"These are concerns which no one should ignore of underestimate.

"Let us stop quarrelling about minor inaccuracies of one fact or another, or the relevance to one or another news agency, one or another country.

"Let us bring all our efforts together to search for solutions to the major problems. Let us cooperate in finding the ways out of the present-day situation."

Mr. Macbride said a seminar to be held in Stockholm at the end of April would aim at discovering what positive results had been achieved by present systems as well as their shortcomings and imbalances.

Mr. Macbride said the limitations, threats and obstacles to the circulation of news and ideas should be eliminated, or at least decreased, everywhere they existed.

He emphasised a recent statement by Mr. Gerard Long Managing Director of Reuters, who urged: "It is up to everybody in every country to defend himself against the inroads of those who would suppress freedom of information and expression."

The International Press Institute is to create a roll of honour to commemorate journalists who have fought for press freedom.

Mr. Peter Galliner, Director of the IPI Secretariat, said on Tuesday the roll would be a record of the courageous fight by journalists, editors and publishers around the world for press freedom and the free flow of information.

The IPI, founded in 1951 as a non-political organisation to promote press freedom, has a membership of 1,900 in 70 countries.

Mr. Ronald Macdonald, Managing Director of David Syme and Company Ltd., publishers of the "Melbourne Age", was elected Chairman-designate of the Institute.

He will take over from the IPI's retiring Chairman, Mr. Olof Wahlgren of Sweden, when his name is confirmed by the IPI Executive Board later.

THUS SPAKE
THE MAHATMA

I draw no distinction between those who wield the weapons of destruction and those who do Red Cross work. Both participate in war and advance its cause. Both are guilty of the crime of war.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

SUNDAY March. 12, 1978

Free India

GOVT. AS GOLD TRADER

IT is indeed a bold and wise move on the part of the Government of India to enter the gold market as a trader. It wants to sell its accumulated gold stocks which had not been made use of all these years.

One of the reasons which has prompted the Government to take this decision is perhaps the anxiety to curb smuggling in gold. Two other objectives could be mopping up domestic resources to meet part of the huge deficit of Rs. 1,050 crores in the year's budget and to bring down the price of gold within the country.

According to one assessment, apart from the total turnover of 75 tonnes of gold within the country, the smuggling of the metal is said to be in the region of 40 tonnes. A part of this quantity, the Government suspects, gets mixed up with the annual turnover of legitimately held gold in attempts to convert black money into white. The estimated 40 tonnes represents India's "unofficial" demand for gold in the international market.

How effective will be the Government's measures to contain all the evils now plaguing the public dealings in gold? Does the Government have enough gold to make a big impact on the domestic gold trade?

The Finance Minister, it will be recalled, had stated last year that the Government's holdings in gold were of the order of 65 million fine grammes then worth Rs. 675.45 crores. The stocks were built up over the years through purchase from the State-owned Bharat Gold Mines (whose contributions during the past three years was 5,721,736 fine grammes) and the rest made up from gold confiscated from the smugglers.

Whatever be the ethics involved in the decision, it would serve the ends of justice if the Indian public, whose primary craze for possession of gold is to meet age-old social obligations and also to fortify themselves for a wintry day, are assured of an appreciable decrease in gold prices.

The strategy is that the official sales will be so handled as to ensure a continuous downward movement of gold prices. Whether it is going to be as smooth as planned, remains to be seen.

It is not known how the Government proposes to replenish its stocks. Right now, import of gold is envisaged only under the other scheme for the export of gold jewellery.

The International Monetary Fund now sells gold to member countries under the agreements reached at the interim committee of the IMF Board of Governors in August 1975. It is however not clear whether the prices at which gold is available to the bidders in the auctions in the international sales will be within India's reach.

This is far from the cheapest way of buying gold abroad although the gold auctions are intended to benefit the developing countries.

If as a result of the official sales of gold in India, the price in India drops, there is every possibility of the international price in gold also coming down.

These expectations may seem to be far fetched at the moment.

Of Men And Matters

Gesture To Small Newspapers

THE prohibitive increase in the cost of newsprint has come down heavily on the sustenance of the small news papers which are already burdened with other problems for carrying on their business. It is therefore a matter of comfort to know that the Tamil Nadu Minister for Information and Tourism, Mr. R. M. Veerappan, is taking up the question of supply of newsprint to these categories at cheaper rates. The reduction in the price of paper will be a real boon to the small newspapers.

We are being constantly told by the Centre as well as the State Governments that their aim is to come to the rescue of the small newspapers. But in real practice, the small papers have not enjoyed the benefits promised to them because of the viscious circle operating in the industry.

Advertisement revenue is the life blood of any newspaper big or small. But at the same time, when it boils down to allotment of space, the question of circulation looms large and this is made the single criterion for accommodation of space.

What seems pertinent is that there should be a clear demarkation between the roles played by the big papers and the mall papers. Circulation should not be made the measuring rod for determining the quantum of advertisement. Various ingredients are involved in the production of big and small papers. The big news papers are owned by business tycoons who do not turn a hair to invest huge amounts for maintaining the high quality of production although it cannot be argued that because a newspaper is big its dissemination of news is also large or covers a wider sphere than the small newspapers.

In fact, when it comes to dissemination of news, facts prove for themselves that it is the small newspapers that serve the real interest of their readers because more columns are devoted to news coverage by these papers than what appear in the big papers. The ratio of news to advertisement is disproportionate in the big papers than what it is in the small papers. Also in the treatment of news, burning problems are discussed more widely in the small papers than in the big ones. The nation's cause is better served by the small newspapers but the returns are not commensurate with the pains taken by them.

It is therefore a pity that newspapers, all and sundry, are equated on the basis of circulation to qualify for advertisement. The cost of production and the recurring expenses involved remain high whether a paper is small or big, but the capacity to meet this burden is unsurmountable for the owners of the small newspapers.

Unlike in the case of the big papers which are in the hands of affluent managements, the Small papers are mostly owned and run by the journalists themselves.

Apart from newsprint, there are several details worrying the owners of the small newspapers which the Government needs to look into if the aim is to help the growth of small papers in this country.

—DEEVEE.

Attack On Tropical Diseases

THE Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, initiated by WHO and the United Nations Development Programme, has taken on new dimensions with the addition of World Bank as the third co-sponsor for this global attack on diseases which are inhibiting economic and social development as well as taking a heavy toll in human lives.

Meeting in Geneva recently, 32 governments and a number of agencies and foundations which support the Programme agreed on the top management structure required for full operation and made firm commitments to longer-term funding.

CONTRIBUTIONS PLEDGED

Approximately $11 million in new contributions was pledged for 1978 and a number of participants made commitments of support for periods up to five years.

Support for the Programme comes largely from the contributions of the Cooperating Parties, although WHO covers approximately US $1.5 million of the annual budget, which in 1978 is US $19.8 million.

The three co-sponsors will constitute a Standing Committee, with WHO being the Executing Agency of this programme of international technical cooperation. The meeting examined and approved the proposed operational programme budgets, including those of the Scientific Working Groups, the multidisciplinary groups of scientists who plan and implement the goal-oriented research.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME

The Special Programme was conceived by WHO to stimulate and coordinate research aiming at both the development and the

(Contd. on page 8)

Disarming The Unarmed

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

INDIA has in the recent past in the spotlight for its refusal to sign the non-proliferation treaty or to accept full-scope safeguards on its indigenously built nuclear installations. The attempt by the superpowers to "disarm the unarmed" (to use the apt phrase of Mr. N. Palkhivala, India's Ambassador to the USA) has served to divert the attention of the world from the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union, which is undoubtedly the greatest single threat to man's survival. It would therefore be an edifying exercise to take a look at the nuclear arsenals of the two prime movers behind the attempt to impose a non-proliferation regime on the non-nuclear weapon states.

Arms control negotiations notwithstanding, both the United State and the Soviet Union continue to expand and improve their nuclear arsenals, and are in fact moving towards a first-strike capability. This capability would enable one side to destroy a sufficient portion of the other's retaliatory forces to limit the casualties and the damage it suffers in a retaliatory strike to a level considered acceptable for a given political goal.

DISTURBING ACCUMULATION

According to data available in a recent monograph published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the United States as of July 1, 1977, is believed to possess 2124 strategic nuclear delivery systems, consisting of 1054 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), 656 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), on 41 strategic nuclear submarines, and 414 strategic bombers. This arsenal can deliver about 8500 independently targetable nuclear warheads, a figure up 100% from the 1968 level of 4200 warheads.

Russia is thought to have 2404 strategic nuclear delivery systems, comprising 1452 ICBMs, 812 SLBMs on 60 strategic nuclear submarines, and about 140 strategic bombers. This arsenal can deliver about 4000 independently targetable nuclear warheads (compared to 1100 in [illegible] the two superpowers have tens of thousands of tactical nuclear weapons, most of them much more powerful than the atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima.

So much for the quantitative magnitudes. Qualitative developments such as the continuous improvements in warhead design and of the accuracy of warhead delivery, are no less disturbing.

HOLLOW ARGUMENT

The United States and the Soviet Union, the leading signatories of the NPT, argue that the proliferation of nuclear weapons to more nations than those which possess them at a given moment, is likely to increase the risks of use of such weapons. The argument runs that the present nuclear weapon powers are responsible members of the international community and would never dream of using atomic weapons. However, "minor and irresponsible" nations of the third world might use them in petty border conflicts and precipitate an unlimited human catastrophe.

The hollowness of this argument can be exposed by considering the possible causes which could lead to a nuclear conflict. Atomic weapons can be used by design, miscalculation, accident or terrorism. No nuclear explosion has yet been triggered off by miscalculation or terrorism. And history provides only one instance of atomic weapons having been detonated by design—when the United States, today's strongest power and leading votary of the NPT, detonated a device each on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

ACCIDENT RISK

That leaves us with the risk of use by accident. (And President Kennedy had once warned of the danger of nuclear world war being started by accident). There have been at least 125 nuclear weapon accidents in the past 30 years—91 American, 22 Russian, 8 British and 4 French. In 32 of the US accidents nuclear weapons were believed to have been destroyed or seriously damaged, and in the remaining 59 nuclear weapons may have been in danger of destruction or serious damage. The accidents includes the crashing of a Russian—airplane into the Sea of Japan and the recovery by American personnel of a nuclear weapon from the wreckage; the rolling off a truck into the Tennessee River of a US Corporal missile with a nuclear warhead; the alleged explosion and sinking in the Black Sea in September 1974 of a Soviet guided missile destroyer: and several collisions between US submarines, armed with nuclear weapons, and Soviet vessels, close to Soviet territorial waters while on intelligence-gathering missions. While it must be admitted that in none of these accidents has there been a nuclear weapon detonation, there certainly has been extensive radio active contamination in several instances.

The United States and the Soviet Union would do well to realise that the threat of a nuclear holocaust lies within heir own borders. Their policy of "seeking to disarm the unarmed" while continuing to arm themselves to the teeth will only raise the arms race to more dangerous dimensions. It appears that nations, like men, constantly need to be reminded of the old adage; "Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones".

Railways: Production And Export

INDIGENISATION of coaches produced by the Integral Coach Factory has been progressively increased to 98 per cent against almost total dependence on imported components for assembling the coaches in 1956-57. The import content of about [illegible] sheets and plates and special quality steels. Efforts are being made for indigenisation development of these also.

A coach repairing shop will be set up at Mancheswer near Bhubaneswar. The work is expected to be taken up during the next financial year. Rs. 43 lakhs have been provided for the shop in the Railway Budget.

During the Current financial year 1977-78, the Integral Coach Factory bagged orders worth over Rs. 8.6 crores from Zambia, Taiwan, Philippines, Uganda and Nigeria.

x x x

The first lot of the double-decker coaches constructed at the Integral Coach Factory, Madras are proposed to be used on Bombay-Pune section and when more coaches are made available they will be used on the Delhi-Agra and other sections.

x x x

It has been decided to make available a Government credit to Vietnam (including Rs. 10 crores on Government to Government basis) for purchase of railway equipment and other items. A three member technical delegation from the Indian Railways visited Vietnam in January 1978 to study the developmental needs of some sectors of Vietnamese Railways.

GREATNESS

A PERSON is great, not because of any great act or acts that he may have performed. He is great because of what he is. He may be a humble person, without much education, wealth, or social standing, yet he is great because of certain qualities he possesses which shine through everything he does, even through his daily chores. His constant thought is of how he can make others happy. This may involve much sacrifice on his part, but he makes the sacrifice gladly. He does not demand that he be given his due, he is content to get what is given him. People may ignore him, even people who know him and perhaps owe him much, but he accepts the position as if it is just as it should be. He gives others whatever he can give, it may be a small thing, but he gives it gladly, with love and respect. The way he gives makes the recipient feel as if he is doing the giver a favour by accepting the gift. He is humble before those who are superior to him, but more so before those who are inferior, as if he is ashamed of what he is. He is concerned about everybody around him. Nobody coming to him for help and sympathy has any reason to feel that he has come to a stranger; he, on [illegible] feeling that he has come to a person who loves and cares for him.

He is a poor man but he is not ashamed that he is poor. He is happy with whatever he possesses, and his only concern is that he may use it well. He values his principles more than anything else and he will do nothing to compromise his principles. He is far above the ordinary men and women in moral terms, but he never gives the impression that he is other than ordinary. His dress is simple, his food is a poor man's food which he takes only because he must, he listens more than he talks, and if he has to talk at all, he is never dogmatic. He does not pretend either, that he is learned and of course he is a person who has read many books. He, in fact, is not interested so much in books as he is in men and things. He never condemns anybody for he knows man is weak. He recognizes life has many ups and downs and one must therefore take the rough with the smooth which he does. That is to say, if there is a bit of good luck he is not particularly elated as he is not completely upset if luck deals him raw. He shows his goodwill towards all and even those who do him harm are not excepted. He has no ambitions, at least none on his own account. He is happy if others are happy; if there is anybody in trouble, he feels as if he himself is in trouble and if he can do anything to give him relief, he does so. He gives praise where praise is due even it be that the person he is praising is not particularly friendly to him. He avoids making unflattering references to others, but if he ever has to do so for the sake of truth, he uses the mildest possible language. If he is given respect which perhaps he richly deserves, he feels extremely uncomfortable and will protest till he is able to convince everybody that he does not deserve it. He is ordinarily shy and humble but if ever there is an occasion when he finds truth and justice are being violated, he will be the first to protest.

Such a man is not born often, but when born, he spreads his influence across the world and through the generations. Thank God, such a man is born at all.

—*Bulletin of the RKM Institute of Culture.*

FUN AND LAUGHTER

HIS OFFER!

Harkins had lived in his new home but a few weeks, and scarcely knew his neighbours by sight. Then his house caught fire. Rushing from the front door he found two neighbours already on the same.

"I say," Harkins cried excitedly, "will you run to the corner and give the alarm?"

"Very sorry," explained the man "but I have a wooden leg and can't run".

The other man pressed forward.

"I say", said Harkins, turning to his new ally, "while I'm getting the things out run over to the corner of the street and shout 'Fire'!"

"I'm suffering from laryngitis," said the other neighbour in a whisper.

There was not a moment to spare, but Harkins found time to turn to them and say, politely: "Suppose both of you go into the house and bring out easy-chairs and sit down here and enjoy the blaze".

x x x

WRONG GUY

"Why didn't you shave this morning?"

"I thought I did but there were twelve of us using the same mirror and I must have shaved some other guy'.

x x x

STINKS

Honey: You sang "No Orchids for My Lady" so beautifully I could just smell the orchids.

Sunny: Yeah? How'd you like my voice?

Honey: I could smell that, too.

REASON

"Papa, are you growing taller all the time?"

"No, my child. Why do you ask?"

"Cause the top of your head is poking up through your hair".

x x x

NOT YET!

Dentist's Daughter: "Well, dear, have you asked father for my hand yet?"

Shy Suitor: "No. Every time I step into his office I lose courage. Today I allowed him to pull another tooth".

• • •

CHEAPER

"Yes, my boy friend takes me to the museum every Saturday".

"Really! What is he studying".

"Economy".

x x x

THE DIFFERENCE

"Why are you crying, little man?" asked the sympathetic stranger of the small boy.

"Please, sir, my dog's dead," sobbed the child.

"Well" said the man, "you mustn't cry like that about it. My grand-mother died last week and I'm not crying".

"No," said the boy, "but you didn't bring her up from a puppy!"

x x x

JUST TRY

Model: If I let you kiss me, will you be good?

Artist: If you let me kiss you you'll know I'm good.

x x x

HEAVILY LOADED

You're looking downcast old man. "What's on your mind?"

"A piece of my wife's".

RELIABLE

"My little daughter has swallowed a gold piece and has got to be operated on. I wonder if Dr. Robinson is to be trusted?"

"Without a doubt. He's absolutely honest".

x x x

SNEAKY

O'Leary's wife awoke in the small hours to hear him stealthy moving things about in the kitchen.

"What might ye be lookin' for, darlin'?" she asked.

"Nothing," said O'Leary. "just nothing".

"Oh!" said his wife, helpfully. "Then ye'll find it in the bottle where the whisky used to be".

x

FINISHING TOUGH

Some town children had spent a day in the country, and the next morning their teacher asked what was the most wonderful thing they had seen.

"The man who makes real for see," replied one little boy, who had been fascinated by the village blacksmith's forge "He had just finished one, and I saw him nailing one of its feet on".

x x x

ON THE WAY

A sentimental woman was married to an unromantic man. One evening she said to him with a sigh: "Would you mourn for me if I were to die?"

"Oh, yes," he mumbled, "of course I would".

"And would you visit the cemetery often?"

"Certainly," he said, with a little more animation. "I pass it on the way to the club anyhow".

JUST ANOTHER

He was squire of the village as a Member of Parliament, and didn't let people forget it. All the local shopkeepers put up with his nonsense for the sake of his custom.

But when rationing started and he grumbled because the grocer couldn't sell him extra sugar, the storm broke.

"And let me tell you, sir," the grocer finished up, "you may be squire and sit in Parliament, but to me you're just another ration book!"

x x x

PERISH THE THOUGHT!

The door-keeper hurried down the steps of the club to open the car door and tripped and rolled down the last few steps.

The manager, who saw this, called out angrily: "For goodness sake be more careful, can't you? They'll think you're a member".

x x x

UNWITTING

The wife was working out a cross-word puzzle. Suddenly she turned to her husband and asked: "What is a female sheep?"

"Ewe," he replied.

And that started the unpleasantness that spoiled the whole evening.

• • •

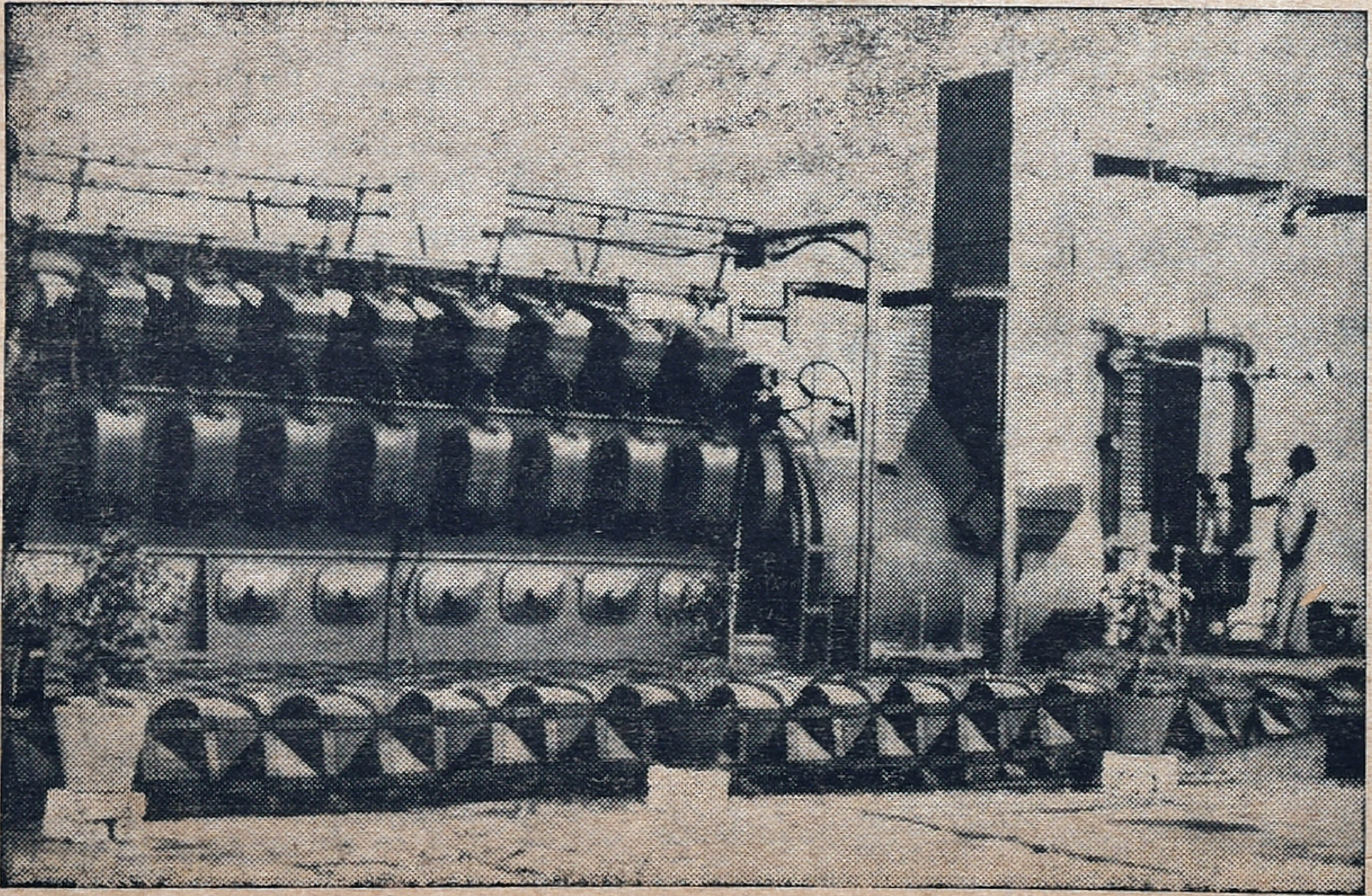
SURPRISING

Little John went into the drawing-room to see a visitor who was with his father. [illegible] came and [illegible] father's friend, "what are you looking at me for?"

"Why replied the boy, "daddy told me you were a self-made man, and I want to see what you look like".

"Quite right," said the gratified guest. "I am a self-made man."

"But why did you make yourself like that?" said John with considerable surprise.



EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR

A 1750 KW-capacity Emergency Diesel Generating Set designed and manufactured at the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), Varanasi, has been installed and commissioned at the Petrofils Cooperative Ltd., Vadodara.

The entire work from designing and manufacture to installation and commissioning of the high power generating set, the first of its kind, was undertaken by the experts of the DLW. Its commissioning was completed in a record time of four months from the date of supply of the set.

The Emergency Diesel Generating Set is a sophisticated stand-by source of power. It has been provided with an inbuilt remote control arrangement to enable it to switch on as soon as the electric power fails.

Far and Near

Festival of Souls

As in India, Japanese festivals go back almost to the origin of man. They celebrate good harvests, the movements of the constellations, the coming of the New Year, the great deeds and customs of the past, and finally, in mid-summer, they pay honour to the souls of the dead. The proliferation of festivals can also be explained by the fact that Japan's first religion was Shinto, the way of the Gods. A form of nature worship, it had not one but eight million gods. Buddhism, with its rich ritual, came later. The religious observances and festivals which these two great faiths produced were numerous and wonderfully varied. Christianity, despite its comparative unimportance numerically, has contributed a major festival, Christmas. Japanese celebrate it joy fully, exchanging gifts and cards, dining out, holding special parties and, in Tokyo, pouring out into the streets by the thousands in a happy, somewhat alcoholic, demonstration of Xmas joy. O-Bon, "The Festival of souls" or [illegible] most universally celebrated munity. It is a three-day com- [illegible] was [illegible] of the living with the dead. Beginning July 13, incense is burned at the graveyards and and lighted white paper lanterns put on the graves, the back to their old homes.

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"Super Energy-Saving Engine"

A "Super energy-saving, low-pollution engine" that consumes only 40% of the gasoline that a conventional engine does has been developed jointly by a major automaker and a research institute on pollution-free engines in Japan. The new engine an improved model of the two-stroke cycle engines now used for motor-cycles and light automobiles-represents a timely innovation that remarkably reduces pollutants in exhaust fumes compared with conventional two-and four-stroke cycle engines and brings down fuel costs to only one-third to one-half of what they were before. Its first practical application will be in generators and ventilators for civil engineering projects and other purposes. The engine's applications will be gradually expanded to include such machines as farm implements and motorcycles, but according to the automaker, it will still be a while before it can be used in automobiles. The new engine is nevertheless expected to make a major contribution to the conservation of automobile fuel and the elimination of air pollution.

—

Capricious Computer

For a long time employees of a loan bank in Swindon (England) could not understand why their computer gave erroneous data whenever it was approached by one young woman. The reason was finally found; she was wearing nylon things. And synthetic fibres accumulate a charge of static electricity which prevents the computer from functioning normally.

—

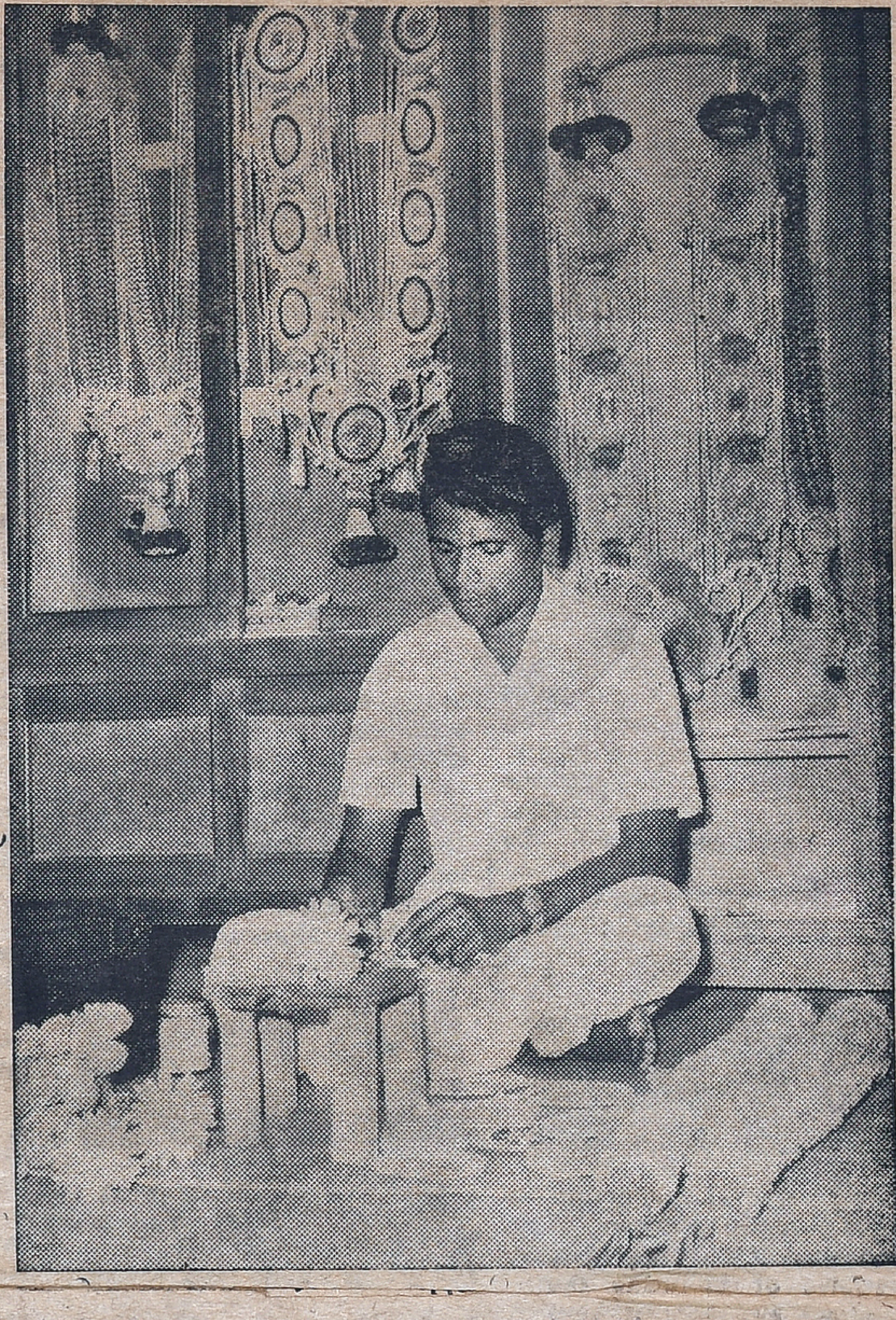
Sideline Offer

The Belgian Gazette recently published the following advertisement: 'Wanted person whose mother tongue is German, preferably with higher education, to translate not very difficult texts (reports, etc.) into German and type them. The ideal person would be one whose basic occupation—work in embassy, Common Market agencies, NATO, etc.,—would leave sufficient time for sideline occupation".

—

Bribe Or "Commission"

There is a new law in the United States under which corporations bribing foreign government officials in an effort to obtain export business may be fined upto $1 million, while their officers and directors face five years in prison and fines of up to $10,000 each. A retired corporation officer, says that he looks at the payments "as necessary to sell a product," that they are a "commission", which is part of a normal commercial deal. He should know. When he was Lockheed's chief operating officer, the corporation paid the middlemen of different countries a sum of $138 million in "commission". It now remains to be seen what will be stronger: the new law or the immutable law of free enterprise which says you must grease the hand if you want to sell anything.



Indian handicraft products have a good market abroad. Art pieces made out of wood and metal are being exported in large quantities to earn valuable foreign exchange. Mr. Kothandapani of Tanjore manufactures and exports a novel item—garlands made of spices and cereals in beautiful designs and patterns. He also makes garlands for specific poojas using coins. His products have a good market in Malasia, Barma, Singapore, Dubai and other countries.

The Fatal Dress

One modest housewife in the French town of Toulon had a posh wardrobe of 1,000 dresses. But when she decided to get the 1,001st, she lost all of them. This time she was caught red-handed in a department store. The court confiscated everything she had stolen before.

—

Record Year

One of the British M.P.s recently said that 1977 would go down as a record year in what concerned resignations from the British police. The number to have left the force of their own free will by the end of the year was about 2,000. The reason was the demands made on the police in public order matters, such as the Grunwick dispute, plus the high cost of living and unsatisfactory pay levels.

Different Views

Sicily is suffering from an acute water shortage. Water usually reaches the homes of many of the 800,000 Palermo citizens at night, and that is when women do their washing. Replying to the sharp criticism of this state of affairs in water supply, the director of the city's water supply system, said: "The situation is dramatic if it is viewed in the context of an advanced society, but if we look at it as a reality of the underdeveloped world, it is not so disastrous. If the reality of Palermo is much more than just underdeveloped—and it is—then we should all be happy and contented and conclude that in Palermo the water situation is excellent".

DANGEROUS STATEMENT

"Peace may come rather quickly or it may come slowly". This is the sort of rash and unguarded statement that is dangerous at the present moment.

For The Week 12th March To 18th March 1978

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

THIS week opens new opportunities for consolidating your position. Financial position will improve. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. You should continue your efforts. You will be able to reap the benefits in a couple of weeks. Family atmosphere will be pleasant. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Favourable days : 13th & 14th.

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

THIS week is favourable to finalise financial matters. You will be able to find a new source of income. Promotional possibilities are bright. With some tact and diplomacy you will be able to gain the attention of your superiors. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Domestic scene will be cloudy. Avoid arguments with elders. Favourable days : 15th & 16th.

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

THIS week you will be able to complete some of the long pending jobs. You should try to cut away dead wood and clear the way for making new beginings. Finance is fairly satisfactory. Avoid speculative investments. Domestic responsibility will increase. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days : 16th & 17th.

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

THIS week will be ordinary. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. No major changes in office. Avoid friction with superiors. Financial position will be satisfactory. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Health requires attention. Domestic atmosphere will be pleasant. Avoid long distance journeys unless necessary. Favourable days : 17th & 18th.

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

THE whole week will be progressive. You will be able to consolidate the position. But you should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Financial position will improve. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Domestic atmosphere will be pleasant. Health requires attention. Favourable days : 15th & 16th.

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

SECOND part of the week is better than the first. You may have some financial difficulty but you will be able to raise considerable amount by the end of the week. No major changes in office. You should continue your efforts to get proper recognition. Domestic responsibility will increase. But you can expect the cooperation of your family members. Favourable days ; 14th & 15th.

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

THIS week shows progressive trends. You should try to implement your plans. Partnership matters could be finalised favourably. With some tact and diplomacy you will be able to gain the support of partners. Financial position will improve. Legal matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Domestic scene will be pleasant. Favourable days : 15th & 16th.

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

THE whole week will be satisfactory. Financial position will improve. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Promotional possibilities are bright. Domestic responsibility will increase. But you can expect favours from opposite sex. Health will be well maintained. Avoid long distance journeys unless necessary. Favourable days : 17th & 18th.

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

THE first part of the week will be favourable. You should try to complete all important work during the first part of the week. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. Health will be well maintained. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days : 15th & 16th.

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana Dhanistha 1/2

THE whole week is progressive. You will be offered a more attractive position. Financial position will improve. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Investment made in real estate will yield good results. Family members will be cooperative. Children's progress will give you much pleasure. You may be undertaking a journey shortly. Change of place is indicated for some. Favourable days : 13th & 14th.

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

THIS week's result will be encouraging. You should try to expand your business. Financial position will be satisfactory. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Domestic atmosphere will be cloudy. Avoid friction with elders. Health will be well maintained. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days : 16th & 17th.

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

THE week is favourable to start new ventures. You will be able to finalise partnership arrangements. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Domestic scene will be pleasant. Children's progress will give you much pleasure. Partnership matters require attention. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days : 17th & 18th.

Muscovite's Diary

IVAN IVANOV

SESSION OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET

THE Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet held a meeting in the Kremlin recently, presided over by the President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev. The Presidium examined a number of important questions pertaining to the life of the State, connected with the implementation of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the New Constitution of the USSR.

Leonid Brezhnev, noted that ample and useful work is outlined towards the realisation of the Deputies' proposals.

The Presidium discussed the results of a trip by a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet to the United States of America. A report on the work of the delegation was made by the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet Boris Poonomorev. He described the meetings in the Senate and the House of Representatives [illegible] Congress, during which a wide range of problems pertaining to the contemporary international situation and bilateral Soviet-American relations were discussed.

"SANGEET SAGARA" BY SOVIET COMPOSER

THE doyen of Soviet classical music, Mikhail Osokin, 74, has composed a cycle of vocal and instrumental music entitled "Sangeet Sagara", whose premiere was held in Moscow last week. Singer Irina Chalayeva and a group of soloists of the Academic Symphonic Orchestra of the Moscow Philharmonic Society took part.

A well-known Sanskrit scholar, Osokin has also written for the Soviet Encyclopaedia of Music a chapter on Indian ragas, revealing to the Soviet reader the wealth and beauty of Indian music.

The 7-part cycle "Sangeet Sagara" has been composed on the basis of songs and melodies peculiar to various regions of India. But it is not a mere adaptation. Like Indian musicians, Osokin has made improvisations on the themes of folk songs and dances of India to convey their overwhelming delight.

The Indian theme was first taken up by Osokin in the [illegible] of this was followed by a series of vocal and instrumental compositions. Twenty-four of his compositions on Tagore's themes have recently been obtained by the Soviet Ministry of Culture.

CRICKET

STICK TO SPINNERS

By P.N. SUNDARESAN

Dr. W.G. Grace, cricket's everlasting champion, as captain, is said to have preferred to open his attack with a fast bowlre at one end and a leg-spinner at the other because this would lend variety and would put the batsman on his mettle. Grace could do this with some ease because the balls used in his days did not have the shine they had in later years, or, in the present day.

However the deployment of the new ball fell into a pattern as the game progressed from Grace's days with two fast bowlers using it to be followed by the spinners after it lost the pollsh and got roughened up.

In our country also till a decade ago, till the Nawab of Pataudi, Mansur Ali Khan, got entrenched as captain, the bowling pattern followed this tradition. Pataudi, bothered by the ineffectiveness of our fast or medium bowlers on our slow pitches, switched over to the almost total use of spin bowlers and in course of time fashioned a highly effective spin attack with Prasanna and Venkatraghavan for off-spin, Chandrasekhar for leg-spin and Bishen Singh Bedi for left-arm leg spin. So confident was he of their ability to attack the batsmen that he virtually handed them over the new ball, after a couple of formal overs by the medium-paced bowlers. And, backed up by brilliant close-in fielding this spin attack became a big force in world cricket and earned as famous a reputation as a fast bowling combination of Larwood and Voce, Lindwall and Miller, Hall and Griffith, Trueman and Statham, and Thomson and Lillee. If these famous pairs of fast bowlers induced a sense of fear in the batsmen, our spin bowlers induced a sense of anguish and took them to, what I may term, slow death.

But all the time our spin attack was reaping a rich harvest, we were bemoaning the absence of fast bowlers or even good medium-paced bowlers in our teams. Our total reliance on our spinners was criticised as a bad policy. So it must come as a big surprise to us that the reliance of some other cricketing nations on only fast bowlers, playing as many as three or four in the team, has come in for sharp, criticism. In fact during the recent tour of the Indian team in Australia, the Australians were fascinated by our spin attack and Alan Davidson, the well-known, Australian fast bowler, even said that the critics and commentators in Australia would be flying from place to place to witness our spinners in action.

Which only take one to the point that there is no need for an apologetic stance vis-a-vis our complete reliance on spin. In fact there should be no hasty move in trying to switch over to the traditional speed plus spin bowling, especially with our weakness in fast bowlers. On the other hand, efforts should be made to find proper replacements for the current batch of spinners, some of whom may go out of action very soon. There should be no problem in this as we have a spate of skilful spin bowlers, who only need the opportunity, encouragement and experience to become as effective as any in our present test combination.

I am encouraged to advocate this approach especially as our present crop of batsmen like Mohinder Amarnath and Anshuman Gaekwad have shown the courage and skill to stand up to fast bowlers like Thomson and provide good support to the top men like Gavaskar and Visvanath. If our batsmen could give us a fairly comfortable total, in the range of 350 an innings, our spin attack can do their job very effectively, as much as a fast bonling combination. This is the big lesson of our recent tour to Australia which should not be lost on our authorities. Stick to our spin bowlers, should continue to be our motto.

A Wicket-keeper's hat-trick

THIS hat-trick was performed not with the gloves on but with the ball by P. Sen, who played for Bengal in the Ranji trophy championship and was known for his skill as a wicket-keeper. A gentleman with a rolling gait, he kept wickets for India in 14 tests.

For the captain of a team to give his wicket-keeper a bowl, he must either be in a desperate plight to break a stand and having failed to do it through his regular bowlers, or must be in a light mood with little hanging on the way the play went.

In the Bengal vs Orissa Ranji trophy match, of 1954-1955, the Bengal captain P.B. Dutta brought Sen on to bowl with no problem in winning the match. In his fourth over Sen dismissed T. Ram Sastry, who was batting in fine style, stumped by his substitute Chakravarthy behind the stumps. He then brought the innings to an end bowling the last two batsmen, T. Sasti and N. Padhi for "ducks" to return home triumphant with a hat-trick, but so unfamiliar for a wicket-keeper!

Manitou's Memorable Victory At Guindy

By "SNAPPER"

FILLING the place of stable-mate Squanderer who could not keep his engagement in the Bicentenary Cup race at Guindy last Sunday, Byramji-trained colt, Manitou, manifested his superiority in no small fashion finishing way ahead of his other rivals and thus creating a new record for the 2,000M at this course, clocking 2m. 5-1/5s.

The minor placings in this memorable race, the richest ever for any event, were all filled by challengers from Bangalore. They are: Kitty Bank, the runner-up nine lengths behind, Ocean Gold, a further three lengths back, and Beloved Prince, finishing fourth one and a half lengths away.

The performance of Manitou evoked a thunderous acclaim from the huge crowd of racegoers including several people who had come from all over the country amounting to nearly 40,000 packing every inch of the stands.

Supporters of the Madras champion Grand Parade were shocked to see him finish in the ruck. The hot pace set by Ocean Gold from the word go and not relenting till the straight was reached could have spoiled the chances of the local favourite.

All told, it was a great day in the history of the Madras Race Club whose authorities should be congratulated for the excellent arrangements they had made to make the stay of the visiting turfites from the other racing centres very pleasurable.

Madras trainers A.B. David and D.M. Hill sent out two winners each on this eventful day to merit trophies for their respective patrons. It was however dismal to see the veteran trainer, Mr. J. Tyrrell draw a blank on this memorable occasion although two of his entries—Ali and Crackerjack managed to earn minor brackets in their respective races.

Bangalore trainer Mangalorekar who usually manages to make his presence felt on such robust occasions, failed to click on this time in spite of having jockey Karan Singh to steer three good mounts in Cyclops, Kitty Bank and King's Satin. Incidentally the second and the third named were runners-up in their respective races.

Immense spade work and methodic planning by the Staff of the Club working round the clock for the past several months had resulted in the resounding success of the Bicentenary day which earned the respect of all the distinguished visitors from the various racing centres who responded to the invitation of the Madras Race Club.

With the installation of a new Bicentenary complex building having all the modern amenities for its patrons, MRC can well claim to serve the interest of this king of sports in a manner expected by the racing public. Other race clubs in the country have now a model to emulate.

Inaugurating the Bicentenary Stand by unveiling the tablet Tamil Nadu Finance Minister, Mr. K. Manoharan in his speech appealed to the Club's authorities to plough back a part of its profits, promoting the welfare of the weaker sections of the people in the State.

Replying suitably, Mr. M.A.M Ramaswami, Chairman of the Club, assured the Minister that in keeping with its philanthropic traditions, the Club will not lag behind in coming to the rescue of the poor whenever the situation demanded.

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FILM REVIEWS

THYAGAM

THE central theme of Sujatha Cine Arts' colour offering THIYAGAM featuring Sivaji Ganesan and Lakshmi in the lead roles is not a new one. But the way it has been treated and presented makes it different from others. It creates an impression on the viewer as if he is witnessing a completely new type of film. By this, director Vijayan has added one more feather to his cap. The combination of Sivaji Ganesan and Vijayan seems to click.

It is out and out a Sivaji Ganesan film. The main character Raja, born as the only heir to the Zamindar driven to live with the lowly ones taking part in their sorrows and joys, is tailor made to fit Sivaji Ganesan. He exhibits his craftsmanship by bringing forth the varied moods the character under different circumstances with alacrity and aplomb.

Versatile Lakshmi has little to do. Still she has proved equal to Sivaji by her subtle expressions.

Thengai Srinivasan, as the temple priest, has again a role proving he is capable of handling comical as well as serious roles with equal ease. Manorama, as his wife, apart from preaching sermons also fight the villlains with sticks to entertain her fans. V. K. Ramaswami and M. R. R. Vasu are the villains. K. Balaji appears as the Inspector of police. Phataphat Jayalakshmi is charming and attractive.

Nagesh has appeared as a guest artist. His portrayal of the poor fisherman struggling hard against odds to get his daughter medical treatment is remarkable.

Major Sundarasajan as the service-minded doctor is convincing and impressive.

Through punch and clarity in dialogue A. L. Narayanan drives home the lopsided development of our society and brings out the need to change the outlook of the people.

Kannadasan has composed the lyrics. Ilayaraja's music is average.

N. Balakrishnan has handled the camera well to capture the beautifut scenery along the seashore and the river bed.

B. Kandaswami has edited the film ably. R. Krishnamurthy has assisted director Vijayan.

Ayiram Janmangal

JOURNALIST 'Mathioli' Shanmugam has turned to be a dialogue writer through N.V. Ramaswamy's Pallavi Enterprises' colour film AYIRAM JANMANGAL, a remake of the successful Malayalam movie "Yakshaganam". Shanmugam has done his job well to secure a permanent position in the field.

The film is about the efforts of a ghost of the erstwhile fiancee of an estate owner to take him away with it and how it is foiled by the bold and clever manoeuvres of his brother-in-law.

Rajanikanth is the ever-alert, courageous and affectionate brother-in-law who goes all out to drive the ghost to its wits end. He is too stagy and rigid in his movements.

Vijayakumar is the estate owner. He has done his role well. Latha is his wife Savithri, possessed by the ghost of Radha. She has been provided with ample scope to prove her mettle and has utilised it fully. She has expressed the emotions and feelings effectively. Padmapriya appears as Radha and is docile. Kannan is the villain.

Music and photography play a vital role in mystic films like this one. Photography is by Ranga, a new find. Music is by M. S. Viswanathan.

Directed by Durai, this film is sure to be successful at the box-office.

HERO '78, Jaishankar. It is no exaggeration to say that not a week passed without Jai signing for a new film since the beginning of the year. Film magnate Nagi Reddi switched on the camera to inaugurate Poompuhar Productions 'VANDIKKARAN MAGAN' only last week at AVM Studio. Kalaignar Mu. Karunanidhi writes the screen-play and diologues for the story by late Arignar Anna.

Now Running at MADRAS

SHANTI (Deluxe A/c)

CROWN - BHUVANESWARI

and

All Over TAMIL NADU

Nadigar Thilagam

SIVAJI GANESAN

In

SUJATHAS'

THYAGAM

(Colour)

Music : ILAYA RAJA Direction : K. VIJAYAN

From page 2

application of new and improved tools for control of tropical diseases and the strengthening of research institutions in the tropical countries.

The diseases presently being attacked by the Special Programme are malaria, schistosomiasis, filariasis (including river blindness), trypanosomiasis (both African sleeping sickness and the American form called Chagas' disease), leishmaniasis and leprosy.

Since several major problems which must be resolved apply to most or all of the six diseases, the Programme includes goal-oriented activities on epidemiology, operational research, vector control, socio economic and biomedical research.

Despite the remarkable advances in medical science over recent decades, parasitic diseases still affect or threaten more than a thousand million people in the tropical countries.

From page 1

school timings to facilitate easy commutation to and from duty and liberalisation of withdrawals from the General Provident Fund have been conceded. Other demands are to be examined and a decision is to be taken soon after consultation with the Finance Ministry.

While two of the NGO unions have appreciated the Government's stand and have advised their members to function smoothly, the NGO Union led by Mr. Siva Elango is reputed to have heeded to the wrong advice of certain persons and has taken upon itself the responsibility of defying the orders of the Government.

The attitude of the striking Government employees is to be soundly condemned by all sections of the people setting aside political leanings. If those who have lost power entertain hopes of regaining it, the solution lies not in misleading government servants or piling disgrace upon those who run the Government but take to real service in all good causes and win back the confidence of the people.

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